

CABLE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF 4/6/06

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Paul Hague, Will Ottery, Brad Macauley, Matt Esenwine, Dave Abrams, Ray Eaton. Steve Flanders arrived @7:35pm

GUESTS: Selectmen Heleen Kurk and Tom Clow

Meeting called to order @7:03pm.

No minutes from March, as there was no March meeting.

Macauley explained that Channel 6 was off the air last week due to the character generator (CG) overheating...police & fire had been called in, building had been evacuated, and although the station is now back on the air, there is no bulletin board running. It was decided that rather than replace the CG with a comparable unit, the committee should seek to upgrade the unit from MD-DOS to a Windows-based system.

Ottery thanks Macauley and complemented Comcast for their cooperation in helping to get the cable channel back on the air.

Kurk said a Comcast representative told the Selectboard that the equipment could be relocated to the school, to allow channel 17 to run on channel 6 as well, but the board decided not to do it. Macauley said he had been that simulcasting would not have required that much work. Kurk said this incident underscores the importance of the committee developing a CIP and urged the committee to work towards the goal. Ottery said that, having spent months on the current studio-upgrade bidding process, the committee should get the bids taken care of first, get the work completed, then start focusing on a long-range plan suitable for a CIP.

Committee examined the two bids that had been submitted for the studio upgrade. One was from Kevin Long at Access A/V and the other was from Integri-sys. The merits of each bidder were discussed at length. It was the general consensus that Long had an impressive list of local towns with which he has worked and a lower price (\$15,767) while Integri-sys appeared to offer a more complete package of services – not just equipment, but better support. Esenwine noted that Integri-sys' multi-page proposal was more detailed and explicit in what they would provide, while Long's proposal consisted of one page of price breakdowns. Esenwine also pointed out that Long's proposal did not include a chromo-key screen (which was in the bid request), although it did include background software-with which a screen would be needed. Integri-sys initial bid was for \$17,369 but had amended it to \$18,303 after Ottery had contacted them to explain that a few pieces of equipment had been left out of the bid request inadvertently. Long's proposal included these pieces of equipment. Hague suggested the matter be put to a vote, and the committee voted to award the bid contract to Integri-sys. 6-1.

The subject of the official groundbreaking ceremony for the new Middle School was brought up. Esenwine said he was planning on attending the event in order to videotape it.

Macauley stated that since there had been no March meeting, the committee was overdue in electing officers. Ottery nominated Hague to be Chairman; Macauley seconded. Abrams nominated Ottery; Esenwine seconded. Hague declined the nomination. Ottery accepted and was re-elected unanimously to the position. Flanders nominated Hague for Vice Chairman; Abrams seconded. Paul accepted and was re-elected unanimously. Otter asked if anyone wanted to fill the position of Secretary; Esenwine said he would be willing, if no one else wanted to. Macauley nominated Esenwine; Ottery seconded, and Esenwine was unanimously elected to the position.

Macauley asked about the status of the survey/questionnaire. Ottery said the committee is waiting to get some information from Merry Rice and a list of cable customers from Comcast. Ottery announced a CATV marketing workshop is to be held in Bedford on 5/4/06, sponsored by the NHCCA – and said anyone is welcome to attend.

There was a brief discussion about how to inform viewers that the Bulletin Board is not airing; it was decided to ask Derek Geddes about getting the information out on Channel 17.

The next meeting will be held May 4, 2006.

Macauley moved to adjourn; Hague seconded, and the meeting was adjourned @8:29pm.